

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 13 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are amended and claim 11 is canceled. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,781,976). The Office Action also rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita et al. in view of Hutchinson et al. (GP 2,331,525). These rejections are traversed.

The present claims are directed to a "skin of a seat for a vehicle" and require, *inter alia*, "the surface of said skin is a roughened surface having pluralities of recesses and projections (4,5), and the height (h) of the projection (5) is 0.05 mm or more."

As the Office action notes, in Fujita et al., "the skin covering 1 of [the Fujita et al.] invention is wholly applied thereon by vacuum forming so as to cover [a] cloth 11" (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 1). The Office Action then asserts that "it should be noted that knit fabrics do not have smooth surfaces due to the entanglements of the structure [and therefore] when a coating is applied to the surface or the fabric, the coating will contour the irregularities of the knitted fabric..." (page 4, first full paragraph of the Office Action).

However, Applicants respectfully note that Fujita et al. have solved the undesirable problem of the skin drawing down into the contour of the irregularities of the knitted fabric. In particular, Fujita et al. teach that "[f]or the surface layer,... [by using] a high polymerization PVC, there can be prevented or inhibited undesirable drawing down of the layer in the vacuum forming step..." (col. 2, lines 7-11, emphasis added).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that recesses and projections are not formed in the Fujita et al. skin covering and further that Fujita et al. teach against such “undesirable” forming.

Applicants note that the Fujita et al. skin is formed with “releasing paper [that is] peeled off to give the skin covering 1 consisting of the surface layer, [etc]” (col. 3, line 49). The use of such releasing paper will, of course, form a very planar (and not roughened) surface.

As Fujita et al. does not teach or suggest a roughened surface of a skin layer, having recesses and projections, let alone the height of projections on a roughened surface, but instead teaches against a surface having recesses, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention or the present claims would not have been obvious over Fujita et al.

As Hutchinson et al. fails to teach or suggest that recesses should be formed in the Fujita et al. skin covering, Hutchinson et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies in Fujita et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious over the combination of these reference.

Furthermore, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 11 into claims 1 and 6.

Moreover, claim 1 is being amended to specify that recesses and projections are dispersed in the surface of the skin. This feature is derived from the disclosure in the filed text at page 2, lines 18-20. This amendment intends merely to clarify the current definition and hence Applicants believe no new issue rejection should be raised thereagainst.

Fujita et al. fail to teach or suggest the idea of reliably and intentionally forming recesses and projections in such specific range which belongs to the present invention.

For at least the above reason, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 11 and of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107348-00119.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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